

Minehead go down

MINEHEAD, Wycombe Wanderers' opponents in the FA Cup first round on Saturday, fell to their sixth defeat in 14 Southern League Premier Division games on Saturday when they lost 1-0 at Maldstone.

Although dominating much of the game, Minehead were unable to convert any of the many chances created. They are still in the lower regions of the table although the Premier Division is highly competitive with only a handful of points separating the clubs.

Wycombe should have Mick Hollifield back in the side. Mick was confident his swollen ankle would have recovered in time, although he missed the Maidenhead Berks and Bucks Senior Cup tie on Saturday.

Supporters wishing to travel by coach can obtain tickets at Loakes Park tonight (Tuesday) and Thursday from 7-9 pm. The players and officials are travelling down by coach on Friday night.

Enfield go 8 points clear

ENFIELD went eight points clear at the top of the Isthmian League Premier Division on Saturday with a staggering 6-1 victory at Sutton United. It was their 17th win in 22 games.

John Bishop was Enfield's star, hitting his third hat-trick of the season. Other goals came from Nick Glover, John Knapman and Mark Wright and Enfield were 4-0 up before ex-Wycombe skipper John Delaney headed a consolation effort for Sutton.

Enfield, who have beaten Wycombe 3-0 this season, were without another former Wanderer, Keith Searle who was injured. For Sutton, Saturday's disaster was their heaviest defeat since Leeds United put six goals past them in the 1970 FA Cup.

Former Enfield manager Fred Callaghan had mixed feelings after Woking's shock 3-0 win at Hayes. Callaghan, who recently acquired the services of

Wycombe coach Laurie Churchill, was sent off with Hayes player Alan Carrington. Another ex-Wycombe man, Dave Alexander, scored one of Woking's goals.

There was more trouble in Leytonstone's 2-2 draw at Carshalton. Peter Powell of Leytonstone received his marching orders which puts his club out of the league's sportsmanship pool.

They are the fourth club to exceed eight penalty points (four for a sending off, one for a booking). The others are Staines, Carshalton and Southall. Sutton are the only club with a clean sheet while Wycombe are next best with only one caution.

WYCOMBE Wanderers Youth visit Wokingham on Wednesday evening in the Berger Paints Youth Cup. Wokingham are currently bottom of the table without a win from six matches.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION (Up to and inc. 21/11/77)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	22	17	4	1	51	14	55
Wycombe	22	16	2	4	40	21	47
Leatherhead	22	12	6	4	43	20	42
Hitchin	22	12	5	5	38	24	41
Tooting	22	12	5	5	33	22	41
Dagenham	22	12	4	6	45	37	40
Hendon	22	10	5	7	33	33	35
Croydon	21	10	3	8	31	28	33
Staines	21	9	6	6	27	30	33
Hayes	21	9	5	7	25	24	32
Sutton	21	8	4	9	24	30	31
Carshalton	20	8	5	7	35	31	29
Barking	20	8	2	10	32	30	28
Walthamstow	17	7	4	6	24	25	25
Burnham Wood	17	7	3	7	23	28	24
Slough	20	6	3	11	27	36	21
Woking	18	5	1	12	25	35	16
Leytonstone	21	3	7	11	24	37	16
Kingstonian	21	4	4	13	20	33	16
Tilbury	18	3	0	15	25	36	15
Southall	20	3	6	11	18	37	15
Stortford	22	1	8	13	20	51	8

THE difference in class between the Isthmian League Premier and Division One was amply demonstrated on Saturday when Wycombe Wanderers overpowered local rivals Maidenhead United in the Berks and Bucks Senior Cup first round.

Many expected up-and-downing United to hand out a shock to their more illustrious opponents but Wycombe proved too strong and skilful all round. That they only scored a brace of goals is due to poor finishing — one of the few criticisms that could be levelled. Otherwise it was a thoroughly professional performance.

Maidenhead player coach Geoff Anthony — a former Loakes Park favourite — said before the game that his side had a chance if Wycombe's attitude was wrong. But apart from one spell in the second half, the Blues dominated proceedings and always looked winners.

The defence restricted the home side to just one clear scoring chance in the first few seconds after the interval, while in contrast to goalkeeper Peter Spittle, United's Ian Bath was one of the busiest

Maidenhead United 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2 REPORT BY STUART EARP

men on the field. He did his job well, too.

I was surprised at the amount of time and space Wanderers were given. Even on a bumpy pitch, they used both to full effect to stretch Maidenhead's back four to its limits. They found acres of room on the right and would have had a handful of goals if their crosses had been more accurate.

United could offer little in reply. Anthony, playing his first game for five weeks, showed some of his old skill on the ball, dragging it back delightfully a couple of times while Carl Lawson was menacing on the wing. Otherwise, the home side looked rather ordinary.

HEADACHE

Their defence was given a real headache by the improving Derek Harris, who deserved a goal more than most for a marvellous running performance. Dylan Evans combined with him well while at the back Keith Mead and Alan Phillips tied up nicely.

With Bob Davies back in the side, Farouk Quraishi moved forward to midfield and Howard Kennedy to the front line in place of Mick Hollifield. Kennedy soon made an impact after receiving a glorious ball from Phillips but Bath saved well at the expense of a corner.

Mick Chatterton replied with a header in the 18th minute but it was a rare glimpse of United's attacking ability. Wycombe looked much more dangerous and took a 25th minute lead through Mead — not a set piece but a finely worked goal. Breaking forward, he played a 1-2 with Harris, cut inside and then slotted home much to his delight. 'Meady' won't forget that one in a hurry!

Evans had two other chances and there were shots from Quraishi and Kennedy as Wanderers stamped a firm grip on the game. Only a superb save from Bath prevented another goal in first half injury-time when Kennedy's low cross was laid off by Roger Day to Paul Birdseye. The shot looked perfect until Bath flung himself full length to save. That brought the Blues' eighth corner to United's one.

GOLDEN CHANCE

Maidenhead had to score early to get back into the game and they had a golden chance after 30 seconds of the new half. Everton Hill beat Davies and crossed near post where Lawson sent in a header inches past an upright with Spittle beaten. A goal then might have made all the difference but Wycombe were soon re-establishing themselves again. Mead, with a renewed

appetite for goals, almost did it again with an overlap after 54 minutes but this time Bath denied him. Phillips produced an important tackle on Hill soon afterwards but the action immediately switched to the other end. Harris chipped over after charging down Brian Blackburn's clearance and running clean through but a minute later Kennedy fired home a powerful low drive from 12 yards after a move involving Mead, Evans and Harris.

With United on the rack, Birdseye became another player to test Bath's reflexes when he robbed Steve Palfrey and put Harris through but Bath tipped the shot away. Derek must have known it wasn't his day when his near post flick sailed over the bar from the resulting corner.

To their credit, United kept going until the end with a spirited rally in the last 15 minutes. But they were a spent force and only the woodwork saved them when Evans mis-hit a shot and saw it bobble along the ground before hitting an upright. Birdseye put the follow-up over the top.

MAIDENHEAD: I. Bath; R. Goonell, S. Green, B. Blackburn, R. Hill, S. Palfrey (capt. M. Wood 80 mins), G. Anthony, J. Watt, E. Hill, M. Chatterton, C. Lawson. Sub: J. Clements (not used).
WYCOMBE: P. Spittle, P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips, R. Davies; G. Mackenzie, R. Day, F. Quraishi; H. Kennedy, D. Harris, D. Evans, Sub: S. Vase and A. Horsman (not used).
Referee: D. Potter (Aldershot).
Half-time: 0-1. **Goalkeepers:** Mead (25), Kennedy (68).

AFTER being drawn away from home in their last 11 consecutive Berks and Bucks Senior Cup ties, Wycombe Wanderers are at home at last in the second round on December 10. And the Blues have the chance to avenge their shock exit in the semi-finals last season as they have drawn Hungerford Town at Loakes Park.

Hungerford beat Wanderers 2-1 last season. It is almost five years since Wycombe were at home in the County Cup when they beat Chalfont St Peter 9-0 on January 20, 1973.

Flackwell Heath, who pulled off a marvellous 3-1 win over Aylesbury on Saturday, visit Chalfont St Peter.

Amersham have a rather unattractive tie at Thatcham while Burnham visit Isthmian Leaguers Wokingham. If Marlow overcome Hazels they are at home to another Hellenic side Didcot, who shocked Windsor on Saturday.

Full draw: Chalfont St Peter v Flackwell Heath, Marlow v Hazels v Didcot, Chesham v Wantage, Thatcham v Amersham, Slough v Bracknell, Wokingham v Burnham, Wycombe Wanderers v Hungerford, Wolverton v Newbury.

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WANDERERS' PCCOACH

WYCOMBE Wanderers have appointed 37-year-old Brian Hall as coach. Hall, a policeman, was previously coach at Wimbledon and Slough.